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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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TAGS: [KWBC](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [GZ](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: MORTAR AND ROCKET FIRE CONTINUES IN  
GAZA OVERNIGHT; TWO PROTESTERS INJURED IN WEST BANK BARRIER  
PROTEST -- JUNE 08, 2005 (1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) Summary: The IDF on June 7 clashed with demonstrators protesting the construction of the separation barrier near the village of al-Ramadin, southwest of Hebron. Two protesters sustained light injuries during the protest. PA President Mahmud Abbas is scheduled on June 8 to travel to the Gaza Strip to discuss the recent escalation in violence and the rescheduling of legislative elections with the Palestinians factions. In Gaza, the casualty count from the June 7 rocket attack on a Ganei Tel greenhouse rose to three, after a second Palestinian worker died of his injuries later in the day June 7. Mortar and rocket fire continued in and from Gaza overnight June 7-8 with some ten mortar rounds, three rockets and three anti-tank missiles fired at IDF, Israeli and Israeli settler targets. No injuries were reported in any of these attacks. The militants escaped without injury. PA security forces confronted a militant cell northwest of Bayt Lahiya the evening of June 7 as the militants were preparing to launch rockets at the northern settlement bloc, according to UNRWA. The militants escaped, but the PA forces were able to seize one of the rockets before it could be fired. PA security forces also clashed with PIJ militants in the early morning hours of June 8 near Jabaliya, as the militants were preparing to launch rockets into Israel. The militants reportedly captured one member of the security forces, who was held for several hours until Palestinian mediators intervened and negotiated his release. End Summary.

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West Bank  
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2. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death: Nil.

-- Clashes/Injuries: The IDF on June 7 clashed with demonstrators protesting the construction of the separation barrier near the village of al-Ramadin, southwest of Hebron. Two protesters sustained light injuries during the protest.

-- Shooting: Palestinian gunmen on June 7 fired at an IDF position south of Jenin. There were no injuries reported from this incident.

-- Shooting: Palestinian gunmen on June 7 fired at IDF soldiers operating near Ya,bad village, west of Jenin. There were no injuries reported from this incident.

3. (SBU) ARRESTS/SECURITY:

-- Arrests: Israeli security sources reported that three members of the PFLP were arrested the morning of June 7 in Jerusalem. The three PFLP members are accused of making contacts between PFLP leaders in Jericho and other members of the group in Jerusalem in order to carry out attacks.

-- Arrest: Israeli Border Police at the Idhna checkpoint, west of Hebron, on June 7 arrested a Palestinian driving a vehicle containing ammunition, five flares, and a Molotov cocktail.

-- Incursion: The IDF on the morning of June 8 entered Marda village, north of Salfit, in response to a planned demonstration to protest the construction of the separation barrier.

-- Incursion/Arrests: The IDF on June 8 entered Qalqilya and Nablus to conduct searches. Two Fatah activists were arrested in the operations.

-- Arrest: According to Israeli sources, the IDF arrested a wanted member of the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ) at a checkpoint north of Ramallah.

**14. (SBU) DEMOLITIONS:**

-- The IDF on June 7 reportedly uprooted trees and leveled agricultural land belonging to villagers from Asira al-Qibliya, south of Nablus.

**15. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:**

-- Palestinian media on June 8 reported that Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Ahmad Quraya, condemned the June 7 Israeli operation in Qabatiya village, near Jenin. The PA Ministry of Interior also released a statement denouncing the Israeli operation, but urged all Palestinian factions to maintain the period of calm agreed to by the factions in Cairo.

-- PA President Mahmud Abbas is scheduled on June 8 to travel to the Gaza Strip for discussions with the Palestinian factions following his meeting in Ramallah with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. Abbas is planning to discuss the recent escalation in violence and the rescheduling of legislative elections.

-- The PA Ministry of Interior (MOI) announced June 7 that PA Preventive Security Organization (PSO) officers and PA policemen who had engaged in a shootout in Ramallah last month have been disciplined and sentenced to prison. The MOI said that PSO and police officers are serving out their sentences in a PA jail in Jericho.

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Gaza  
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**16. (SBU) ATTACKS:**

-- Deaths: Israeli media reported that the casualty count from the June 7 rocket attack on a Ganei Tel greenhouse rose to three, after a second Palestinian worker died of his injuries later in the day June 7.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Mortars/Rockets: The IDF reported that militants fired a total of ten mortar rounds at IDF and Israeli settler targets in the Gaza Strip overnight June 7-8. In the late afternoon of June 7, militants fired three anti-tank missiles in two separate attacks in Rafah and near the Kissufim Crossing, and fired three rockets into Israel near kibbutz Or-Aner. No injuries were reported in any of these attacks.

-- Mortars/Rockets: UNRWA reported that PA security forces clashed with PIJ militants in the early morning hours of June 8 near Jabaliya, as the militants were preparing to launch rockets into Israel. According to UNRWA staff, the militants captured one member of the security forces, who was held for several hours until Palestinian mediators intervened and negotiated his release.

-- Mortars/Rockets: PA security forces confronted a militant cell northwest of Bayt Lahiya the evening of June 7 as the militants were preparing to launch rockets at the northern settlement bloc, according to UNRWA. The militants escaped, but the PA forces were able to seize one of the rockets before it could be fired.

-- Shootings: IDF soldiers exchanged fire with Palestinian militants near Karni Crossing the evening of June 7.

**17. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:**

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open June 8, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open June 7, and 3,971 laborers and 398 merchants crossed into Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open June 7, and 625 laborers entered the zone.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers June 8, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open June 8.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures June

**18.**

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed June 8. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi, except males aged 16-30.

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